

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG: DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY STUDY

REFS: A. USNATO 2412, DTG 261205Z APR 77; B. USNATO 2468,
DTG 281037Z APR 77; C. SECSTATE 96359, DTG 282128 Z APR 77

1. THIS MESSAGE IS IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE
ON THE DRAFT REPORTED IN REF A. WE AGREE WITH THE GENERAL
APPROACH TO THE DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT LAID OUT BY MISSION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 099502

AND REPORTED IN REF B.

2. ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT DRAFT AND
MISSION'S APPROACH PROVIDED BELOW ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS
OF REF B.

A. PARA 2A. WE AGREE THAT THE BACKGROUND SECTION REQUIRES

MAJOR EDITING. IN ADDITION TO MISSION'S EXAMPLES WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS:(1)WE SEE NO POINT TO REVIEWING THE PERCEIVED EMPHASIS OF PAST NPG EFFORTS AS IT RELATES TO POLICY OR FORCE STRUCTURE. BOTH HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE NPG CHARTER. (2) WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THE REASON FOR THE BROADENING OF THE SCOPE WAS THE STRATEGIC ARGUMENT OF INTERDEPENDENCIES OF THE NATO TRIAD. RATHER, IT WAS THE NECESSITY OF CONSIDERING ALL ELEMENTS OF THE

TARGET ENGAGEMENT SEQUENCE, E.G. TARGET ACQUISITION/C3. (3) IF IT IS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS LIMITATIONS, THE REPORT SHOULD USE THE CAREFULLY WORKED LANGUAGE OF THE BASIC REPORTS RATHER THAN CITING LACK OF MANPOWER OR KNOWLEDGE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UK IS CONSIDERING TAKING AN INITIATIVE AT LONDON NAC SUMMIT AND POSSIBLY AT DPC MINISTERIAL, AS WELL, WHICH WOULD CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW STUDY OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONVENTIONAL FIELD. WE HAVE INDICATED INFORMALLY TO UK EMBASSY THAT WE WOULD BE GENERALLY RECEPTIVE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL, BUT WE HAVE CAUTIONED THAT SUCH A STUDY SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE NEED FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, AND THAT MEANS MUST BE FOUND TO BRIDGE THE INTER-FACE BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS. MISSION MAY, THEREFORE, WISH TO CONSULT WITH UK DELEGATION ABOUT SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REF (A) FOR HANDLING SECTION IV OF PERMREPS REPORT.

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PAGE 03 STATE 099502

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